

Appln No. 10/696,490
Amdt date November 15, 2006
Reply to Office action of May 16, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An in-vehicle warning system ~~to warn for warning~~ motorists of an approaching emergency vehicle comprising[[:]]:
 - a global positioning system receiver in said emergency vehicle;
 - an on-board diagnostic computer receiving the output from said global positioning system receiver and deriving pertinent vehicle data in digital form;
 - an emergency vehicle transmitter for transmitting an interrupt signal over a predetermined data frequency and a primary audio signal representing pertinent vehicle data ~~and a sub carrier interrupt over a predetermined audio frequency~~;
 - ~~a radio receiver capable of receiving sub carrier interrupts in said motorist's vehicle receiving said primary audio signal representing pertinent vehicle data from said emergency vehicle transmitter~~ configured to receive the interrupt signal over the predetermined data frequency and in response, automatically switch from a current audio frequency tuned to by the radio receiver to the predetermined audio frequency;
 - whereby said radio receiver broadcasts an audio warning about the approach of an emergency vehicle.
2. (Original) The system according to Claim 1 including a master controller receiving the output from said emergency vehicle on-board diagnostic computer, said master controller generating said primary audio signal to be sent by said transmitter.
3. (Original) The system according to Claim 2 including a dash-board based indicator in said motorist's vehicle for indicating the approach of an emergency vehicle.

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4. (Original) The system according to claim 3 in which said dash-board based indicator is an icon that is illuminated when an output from said emergency vehicle transmitter is received.

5. (Currently amended) The system according to Claim 4 in which said icon is brightly includes illuminated letters "EV" on a dashboard display.

6. (Original) The system according to Claim 4 in which dash-based visual indicator includes icons around a central icon that indicate relative position of an emergency vehicle.

7. (Currently amended) The system according to Claim 6 in which said central icon is a brightly includes illuminated letters "EV".

8. (Original) The system according to Claim 7 in which said icons around said icons around said central icon comprise a plurality of dots in a circle around said central icon.

9. (Original) The system according to Claim 8 in which said plurality of dots around said central icon comprises eight brightly illuminated dots equally spaced in a circle around said central icon.

10. (Original) The system according to Claim 9 in which at least one of said dots is illuminated to indicate the relative position of an emergency vehicle.

11-13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently amended) A method of warning motorists of ~~the approach of~~ approaching emergency vehicles comprising[;]:

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deriving pertinent emergency vehicle information by an on-board diagnostic computer connected to a global positioning system receiver;

processing a data stream from said on-board diagnostic computer in a master controller;

transmitting an interrupt signal over a predetermined data frequency and an audio signal based on the information generated by said master controller over a predetermined audio frequency;

receiving the interrupt signal over the predetermined data frequency by a receiver in a motorist's vehicle, the receiver configured to automatically switch from a current audio frequency tuned to by the receiver to the predetermined audio frequency to a motorist's radio capable of receiving sub-carrier interrupts;

whereby said sub-carrier interrupt capable radio broadcasts an audio message warning a motorist of an approaching emergency vehicle.

15. (Original) The method according to Claim 14 wherein said emergency vehicle on-board diagnostic computer derives pertinent information regarding vehicle speed, location and position.

16. (Original) The method according to Claim 14 wherein said information transmitted from said emergency vehicle to said motorist's radio comprises a primary audio frequency and a data sub-carrier frequency.

17. (Original) The method according to Claim 14 including a visual indicator for indicating the approach of an emergency vehicle on a dash-board visual display.

18. (Original) The method according to Claim 17 in which said dash-board visual display illuminates an icon to indicate the approach of an emergency vehicle.

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19. (Original) The method according to Claim 18 in which said dash-board visual display illuminates one of a plurality of dots in a circle around said icon to indicate the relative position of an emergency vehicle.

20. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 19 in which said illuminated icon on said dashboard visual display includes an ~~is a~~ large "EV" icon.

21. (New) A method for warning motorists of an approaching emergency vehicle comprising:

receiving at a motorist's vehicle an interrupt signal over a predetermined data frequency and an audio signal including information about the approaching emergency vehicle over a predetermined audio frequency;

automatically switching, in response to the interrupt signal, from a current audio frequency to the predetermined audio frequency; and

outputting an audio warning message contained in the audio signal received over the predetermined audio frequency.

22. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the interrupt signal is transmitted over a single predetermined data frequency and the audio signal is transmitted over a single predetermined audio frequency.

23. (New) The method of claim 21, further comprising:

displaying a visual warning display in response to receipt of the interrupt signal.,